

[in the news](#)[home](#) [site search](#) [org chart](#) [contact us](#) [web comments](#)

Greywolf Elementary School student honored in national art contest

Christine Signess chosen as a finalist gets a first-place welcome home

[Click here for other BPA news releases](#)

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, March 16, 2000

PR 41 00

CONTACTS: [Perry Gruber](#), BPA (503) 230-3176

SEQUIM, Wash. – With tears streaming and a huge smile on her face, Christine Signess, an 11-year-old student at Greywolf Elementary School, stood on stage as the entire student body, the faculty and school staff bathed her in cheers and thunderous applause.

On Friday, March 10 Department of Energy Representative Orion Albro presented Signess with a plaque and a personally addressed letter of congratulations from Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. Signess, who is an artist, was picked from among 4,000 entries from around the country, and from lands overseas as far away as India, as a finalist in DOE's Millennium Power Art contest. One hundred finalists were chosen.

Although Signess' rendering of trees, mountains and clouds awash in watercolor hues didn't win first place, her school gave her a triumphal reception.

"They really rolled out the welcome for her," said Albro, who is a regional manager for the DOE's Bonneville Power Administration. "It was a very warm, receptive congratulation worthy of astronauts or heroes."

The local high school band came and played in honor of Signess' achievement. Signess' parents Joe and Kathleen also were there.

DOE's contest theme was *Energy Millennium – Honor the Past, Imagine the Future*. DOE created the contest in partnership with the White House Millennium Council. The contest was designed to showcase the talents and creativity of young artists across the nation and to recognize the past and speculate through our children's eyes about how the future will be shaped by energy technologies.

A blue ribbon panel of judges, including the Northwest's own Will Vinton of Claymation[®], selected the winners from two grade categories (grades 4-6 and 7-8) on the basis of creativity, originality and appropriateness to the theme.

An exhibit of Signess' art and the other finalists' works currently is on tour throughout the country. It

will return to DOE Headquarters on Earth Day, where it will be permanently displayed.

#
